
**Minutes
Human Relations Commission
June 13, 2006**

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, June 13, 2006 6:00 P.M., at the Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Zach Berning
Colleen Byron
Arlene Chin
Edwin Gonzalez-Santin
Joseph Mann
Joel Navarro
Safali Patel-Evans
Gail Paredes-Ewen
Linda Ritland

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Michele Duval
Hassan Elsaad
Janis Webb
Muhammed Zubair

City Staff Present:

Rosa Inchausti
Andrea Groves

Guests Present:

Meeting convened at 6:12 P.M.

Chair Joel Navarro called the meeting to order and invited members of the public to address the Commission.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2- Consideration of Minutes

May 9, 2006

MOTION: Commissioner Colleen Byron made a motion to accept minutes as amended.

SECOND: Commissioner Zach Berning.

DECISION: Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3 – Foundation for Inter-Cultural Dialogue

Chair Joel Navarro invited Ismail Karatas, President of the Foundation for Inter-Cultural Dialogue, to address the commission:

- 1) The Foundation for Inter-Cultural Dialogue (FID) is a non-profit, independent organization established by a group of Turkish Muslims in hopes of promoting mutual respect and dialogue among members of the community.
- 2) The FID aims to provide the community with a platform that dispels intolerance and prejudice stemmed by the absence of communication.
- 3) FID promotes its ideals through a number of events and activities. Its signature event is the "Exploring Faiths & Cultures" seminar series, offered at various weeknights throughout the year. The seminar series consists of a 20-minute presentation followed by 25-30 minute question-and-answer segment.
- 4) Mr. Karatas met with the Diversity Office to discuss how the organization and the city can collaborate on diversity programming. The Diversity Office Who's Your Neighbor? Brown Bag Series and the Diversity Dialogue Program are both similar to FID's seminar series.

General Discussion of the FID Exploring Faiths & Culture Seminar Series included:

- The commission overall was impressed with FID and encouraged Mr. Karatas to continue outreaching to various cities and organizations. The commission offered their support with his efforts.
- One commissioner suggested that Mr. Karatas could exchange his mailing list with the Diversity Office Dialogue Program mailing list to advertise their events to a new audience.

Agenda Item 4 – HRC Strategic Plan Update

Chair Joel Navarro asked for an update on the following subcommittees:

A. Subcommittee for Development of Emerging Issues Report:

Chair Joel Navarro provided an update:

1. Regional HRC Subcommittee on Day Labor Issues Update

- 1) No report. The Regional Subcommittee decided to place the Day Labor Subcommittee on hold for now. The subcommittee will not continue meeting until further direction from the Regional Human Relations Commission.

2. GLBT Issues Update

No report.

B. Subcommittee on Strategic Oversight Update

No report.

C. Subcommittee on Diversity Supplier Update

No report. Staff Rosa Inchausti stated that Engineering and Procurement have been tracking data on vendors doing business with the city. They will have a statistical report ready for the commission for the next HRC meeting. The city recently hosted a mixer with the United Minority Business Coalition and discovered that a business owner in attendance was just awarded a \$6.5-million contract with Tempe.

HRC Subcommittees are encouraged to meet outside the regular HRC meeting to plan next steps in order to have updates for the monthly meeting.

Agenda Item 5–Regional HRC Conversational Exchange Report

Chair Joel Navarro provided an updated on the last Regional HRC Meeting:

- 1) The last Regional HRC Conversational Exchange was hosted by the City of Chandler May 22, 2006.

- 2) The Chandler HRC continued the new focus began by the Tempe HRC. The Tempe HRC felt that the Regional meeting should be more of an exchange of information verses an action body.
- 3) At the Regional meeting, it was decided that if an emerging issue surfaces in more than one city, the HRC's in those cities could choose to form a subcommittee to work through the issue together. Otherwise, no subcommittees would be formed at the Regional level.
- 4) The City of Phoenix brought up the need to collaborate more with sponsors so that several cities are not asking the same companies for funding on similar events. They also expressed a desire to market the Regional Unity Walk more effectively.
- 5) The Regional HRC expressed interest on getting more information on legislation issues.

General Discussion of the Regional HRC Conversational Exchange included:

- The commission expressed a desire to outreach to outlying cities and towns to attend a Regional HRC meeting. For example, the City of Glendale just established a Diversity Office, but has yet to create a Human Relations Commission.
- Staff was asked to research which city is next to host the Regional HRC Conversational Exchange and request that they invite the City of Glendale to attend.
- Staff was also requested to place Amber Wakeman, Tempe Government Relations Director, on the agenda for a future HRC meeting to discuss what she does.

MOTION: Commissioner Zach Berning made a motion that the Tempe Human Relations Commission make a recommendation to the Regional HRC to extend an invitation to surrounding communities to the next Regional Conversational Exchange and to ask that this item be placed on the Regional meeting agenda for discussion.

SECOND: Commissioner Edwin Gonzalez-Santin.

DECISION: Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7–Diversity Office Update

Staff Rosa Inchausti provided on the activities of the Diversity Office:

1. EEOC Update

- 1) At the last HRC meeting, staff was requested to give an update on the city's EEOC claims.
- 2) In 2005, 3 claims were filed and in 2006, one claim was filed. All those filed, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found all of them unsubstantiated. In fact, the city of Tempe did not lose any EEOC claims filed in past 4 ½ years.

2. Bird Flu Update

- 1) At the last HRC meeting, staff was requested to give a report on the city's procedures on the bird flu virus.
- 3) According to Cliff Jones, Tempe Fire Chief, there have been approximately 129 cases reported worldwide. Since the Immunization Department has not been able to isolate the virus, there is not much the city can do at this point. Quarantine is planned in the event of an epidemic; however, the Fire Department states that the best defense against the virus begins with good hygiene.

Agenda Item 8 –Current Events Announcements

- National Hunger Awareness Day is June 6, 2006. The City of Tempe and the Tempe Community Council are collecting canned goods for National Hunger Awareness Day. The drive is good through July 3, 2006. Proceeds will benefit the Tempe Salvation Army and the Tempe Community Action Agency.

The commission's next meeting will be July 11, 2006 at Tempe City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

Prepared by: Andrea Groves

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager